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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Thirteenth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1947 ...	3,454
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1947 ...	£125,529
Product of a Penny Rate	£515
Population	11,580

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total	Males	Females
Births ...	243 ...	126 ...	117
Deaths ...	136 ...	59 ...	77

Birth Rate 20.9. ... Death Rate 11.7

Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	from Sepsis ...	Nil
	from other causes	Nil
Deaths of infants under one year of age ...		9
Infant Mortality Rate		36.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		24
„ „ Measles		Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...		Nil
„ „ Diarrhoæ (under 2 years of age) ...		3
„ „ Cerebro Spinal Fever		Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5	1			2				
10								
15	1	1			1	1		
25	1	2		2				1
35	4	1				1		
45		2						
55	1				1			
65 and upwards								
Totals ...	8	6		4	2	2		1

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are :—

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	9	7	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	6	1	Nil
Measles	126	4	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever	2	2	Nil
Malaria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1
	145	16	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B., (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Matron of Isolation Hospital: Mrs. H. M. Robinson, S.R.N.

Nursing:

I am indebted to Mrs. Hillsden, the Secretary to the District Nurse Association, for the following report of the District Nurses' work :—

General Nursing Visits	2921
Maternity and Midwifery Visits	1515
Ante-Natal	204
Post-Natal	138
Maternity and Midwifery Cases	85
Casuals	187

No praise is too high for the two District Nurses who are responsible for this volume of work. Their hours of duty are twenty-four a day, and their work is carried out with great efficiency, patience and kindness. Additional Nurses are urgently needed.

SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE.

Attendances. The average number of Mothers attending the Clinic every week 70. Children under one year 58. Over one year 19. The Clinic is held each Friday from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p m. A Doctor and two Health Visitors are in attendance. Various duties are also carried out by Members of the Infant Welfare Committee. Baby clothes are made and sold to the Mothers at very reasonable prices.

Immunisation. Children are immunised on the third Friday of each month.

Ante-Natal Clinic. This is held on the first and third Fridays in each month from 10.30 a.m. A qualified dentist attends periodically.

Orthopaedic Clinic. This Clinic is held at the Centre each week, and our children attend for treatment when necessary.

Sunlight. Children have sunlight treatment on Mondays and Thursdays of each week from 2 p.m.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic. This Clinic is held at the Centre each week.

National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juice are dispensed from the Centre every Wednesday and Friday.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The hospital for infectious diseases is situated in an isolated position on the Wainfleet Road, and is about two miles from the town.

There are sixteen beds available for residents and visitors.

The buildings consist of one ward block, one cubicle block, administrative block, also outhouses and housing for steam disinfector.

A considerable amount of work has been done in the hospital during the year, resulting in much improved conditions.

I must express my thanks to the Matron, Mrs. Robinson, for the skill and careful attention given to all patients whilst in hospital.

The difficulty in obtaining nursing staff has made it very difficult during the year to deal with all cases of infectious disease in the Urban District as well as cases from the Spilsby Rural District.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Approximately 530 children under five years of age or 70% and 1,020 children between the ages of five and fifteen years or 75% had by the 31st December been immunised under the Council's scheme.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the town has been good during the year.

Day Nursery.

A Day Nursery to accommodate children up to 5 years of age, of Mothers working in the town was established, and filled a long felt want. The Nursery was well attended and successfully run.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

The general housing conditions are good, although there were a number of houses found to be overcrowded during the year. The re-conditioning of old houses and the conversion of some large houses into flats, provided much needed homes. I am pleased to note that the erection of permanent houses is going on well, and that houses for aged people have been erected. There is still a great need for more houses.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity.

Meat and Food.

The slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food and situate in Richmond Drive are visited by your Council's Sanitary Inspector during hours of slaughter.

The number of visits paid in connection with food inspection will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared for sale have been regularly inspected and are, on the whole, clean and well kept.

Milk Supply.

Frequent visits have been paid to the cowsheds and dairies in the area. A good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Nine samples of milk were submitted for biological examination, and all gave a negative result.

Twentyfour samples of designated milks were examined and all were found to be satisfactory.

Milk Special Designations Order, 1936.

There is one licensed purveyor of Pasteurised Milk and there is one licensed dealer of Tuberculin Tested Milk. One licence is granted to an establishment to bottle Accredited Milk.

Ice Cream.

Twenty-six samples of ice cream were submitted to the bacteriologists and of these nine did not reach the required standard of 200,000 bacteria per mil. and no Bacillus Coli in 1/10th of a mil.

Repeat samples of these showed considerable improvement, and compliance with the standards laid down.

Bakehouses.

Frequent visits have been paid to the bakehouses in the district. These are clean and well kept.

There are no underground bakehouses.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

The County Council is the authority for carrying out this Act,

Swimming Pools.

Three samples of bathing pool water were submitted for analysis, and the report showed that in each case the water was fit for bathing purposes.

Workshops.

These were inspected periodically, and it was found in one or two instances that the attention of the occupier had to be drawn to the uncleanliness of sanitary conveniences or want of limewashing of internal wall surfaces. These matters were put right without resorting to formal measures. The work carried on is mainly motor repairs, dressmaking and millinery, cycle repairs, joinery, photography and upholstery.

SKEGNESS AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

Accommodation and Staff. The present accommodation for in-patients is Twenty-three Beds and Nine Private Wards.

Medical Officers. The local Medical Staff consists of Drs. M. Backwell, W. Brownlie, D. F. Menzies, J. D. O'Neill, A. Jamieson and G. S. Carmichael.

In-Patients.

Number of In-patients admitted :	Male	...	218
	Female	...	361

Operations performed on In-patients : 329 major and 20 minor.

Maternity Ward.

Admitted :	Mothers	196
	Infants born alive	183
	,, ,, dead	6

The present maternity ward accommodation is inadequate for the number of patients who wish to be admitted. The Hospital Authorities are doing all they can to increase the accommodation, but so far have not obtained the approval of the Ministry. The present housing shortage, and in many cases the poor housing conditions, makes this increased accommodation a matter of urgency in the interests of the health of the mothers and babies.

Ante-natal Clinic held at Hospital every Thursday afternoon.

Out-patients' Department.

Minor Operations performed	205
Actual Cases dealt with	1067
Total number of attendances for dressings ...	2150

X-Ray Department.

Number of Cases dealt with	680

This department has been brought up-to-date by the installation of most modern apparatus.

Radio Therapy Department.

A Radio Therapy Department has been established in the Hospital, which has proved of great value.

Laboratory.

A valuable addition to the Hospital during the year has been a well equipped laboratory where Pathological and Bacteriological examinations can be carried out at all times.

The work of the Hospital has increased considerably during the year. In my opinion the time has come to further extend the Hospital, the plans for which have been prepared. Skegness and District requires a larger Hospital, especially the provision of a Children's Ward.

I append herewith the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B.(St. And.)
Medical Officer of Health.

1—INSPECTION for purpose of provisions as to health. FACTORY ACTS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	57	5	—
Factories without mechanical power	12	1	—
† **Other Premises** under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total ...	69	6	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Number of Defects: Remedied (3)	Number of Defects: Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	1	1		
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) insufficient	2	2	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	6	6	—	—

Sanitary Administration :

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1947

Total No. of New Houses erected during the Year—	
(I) By the Local Authority	64
(II) By Other Local Authorities	Nil
(III) By other bodies or persons	7
1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	360
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	690
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	315
2 Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	303
3 Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	12
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	12
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings ...	Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	1
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil
4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.	
(a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
(II) Number of families dwelling therein	5
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein	24
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	—
(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	Nil
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	—
Common Lodging Houses—	
No. registered under by-laws	Nil
No. of inspections made	
No. of contraventions of by-laws	
No. of contraventions remedied	
Canal Boats used as Dwelling-houses—	
No. registered under Acts	Nil
No. of Inspections	
No. of contraventions of regulations	
No. of contraventions remedied	
Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, Etc.—	11 sites licensed and inspected periodically
No. inspected during year	
No. of nuisances therefrom abated	
No. removed from district	
Bakehouses—	
No. in district	9
No. of underground bakehouses	Nil
No. of Inspections	27
Contraventions of Factory Acts	2
Defects remedied	2
Slaughter-houses—	Ministry of Food Abbatoir Visited Daily
No. on register	
No. of Inspections	
Contraventions of by-laws	
Defects remedied	
Cowsheds—	
No. on register	13
No. of Inspections	53
Contraventions of regulations	3
Contraventions remedied	3
No. of milch cows in district	Approx. 180

Dairies and Milk Shops—	
No. on register	8
No. of Inspections	32
Contraventions of regulations	1
Contraventions remedied	1
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	No
Offensive Trades—	
No. of premises in district	Nil
No. of Inspections	
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	
Shops Act, 1934	
Number of shops inspected	17
Additional heating or ventilation	1
Additional sanitary conveniences	Nil
WATER SUPPLY	
Wells—	
New sunk	
Cleansed, repaired	Nil
Closed as polluted	
Public Supply—	
Area supplied	whole area
Percentage of houses supplied	100%
New Cisterns provided	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc.	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis	4
(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from public supply	4
Any insufficiency and where	No
DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE	
Closets—	
No. of houses with privy vaults in district	3
No. of houses with pail closets in district	37
No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	Nil
No. of pail closets repaired	4
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles ...	Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district	3421
No. of water-closets repaired	31
Drains—	
Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	50
,, unstopped, repaired, trapped, &c.	47
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, &c....	25
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	3
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired ...	5
Drains reconstructed	1
Sewers—	
New lengths of sewer laid	—
Tanks, Filter Beds, &c.—	
Alterations to sewage disposal works	Nil
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	No

Cesspools—	
Cesspools rendered impervious	Nil
,, emptied, cleansed, &c.	weekly
,, abolished	Nil
Disinfection—	
Rooms disinfected	38
(a) ordinary infectious disease	26
(b) tuberculosis	12
Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
Articles disinfected or destroyed	
(a) ordinary infectious disease	
(b) tuberculosis	
House Refuse—	
No. of covered ashpits	7
,, uncovered ashpits	Nil
,, bins substituted for ashpits	Nil
,, houses using bins	3454
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger?	Council
How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	weekly
No. of complaints of non-removal	7
Method of final disposal	Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes
Nuisances—	
Total Number of Nuisances during year:—	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	38
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued ...	18
,, ,, not issued ...	1

Detail of Nuisances Abated—

	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Smoke	1	1
Accumulation of refuse ...	11	1
Foul ditches, ponds & stagnant water	Nil	Nil
Foul pigs and other animals ...	5	Nil
Dampness	32	17
Yards repaved or repaired ...	7	Nil
Other nuisances	—	—

Supplementary Remarks as to Sanitary requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries.

Infectious Disease Visits	39
Food Premises Visits	57
Rodent Control Visits	66
Miscellaneous Visits	320